

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

REPORT FOR 1917

To the Honorable Commissioners:

We hand you herewith the report of the operations of the institution in our charge for the calendar year, 1917.

Respectfully,

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

HON. CHARLES P. GILLEN,
Mayor of Newark, *ex-officio*;

Supt. of Schools, *ex-officio*;
HON. THOMAS L. RAYMOND,
R. C. JENKINSON,
J. HENRY BACHELLER,
LATHROP ANDERSON.

A NOTE BY THE LIBRARIAN

No one can tell just what a free public library does for the city which supports it. One can point to the pleasure it gives to those who use it; but this is a very vague and general product, of the nature indeed of the pleasure given by a public park or a smooth pavement. One can point now and then to a specific case of a person who is definitely helped by the facts and opinions found in the library's books; but cases of this kind are rather rare and are much like those which a good daily newspaper could number by thousands.

Let the question be—"Just how much is added by a public library to a city's enlightenment and civility; to the breadth of its views and to refinement of its daily life; to the reasonableness of its conduct and to the depth and richness of its feelings?" Let this be the question and no answer can be given.

Perhaps it is better so. Perhaps it is wise merely to refer to the fact that in most cases, the best cities have the best libraries and the libraries that are most used and most generously supported, and leave each inquirer to make his choice between two conclusions,—that the good libraries help to make the good cities, or that the good cities insist on having good libraries;—not forgetting that in some cases, poor cities have good libraries thrust upon them.

With this question of what a library does to its city goes quite naturally the question of what a city does with its library. A library can tell and usually does once a year, as we do in the statistical tables which follow, how many books and of what kinds the city took home to read in the preceding twelve months. But we who are on the inside know that while these figures are gratifying to our pride as managers, they are not satisfying to our curiosity, which keeps us continually asking, "Well, what of it?"

This library has the name of being grateful to its owners, the people of Newark; and the people of Newark have the name of not being much in the way of readers. I hope the former report is true, and I realize that all the factors that have gone to make the Newark of to-day would suggest that the latter is also.

But here are a few facts which can make one who is generous-minded and mildly inquisitive quite ready to believe that a public library does add no small sum each year to its city's illumination and reflection, and that in the particular case of Newark the city does far more with its library than most could believe.

From our shelves I took a few books at random, rather I took them because they happened to be, on certain occasions in the past few weeks, of special interest to me. Library markings in the back of each told me how many times each had been taken home by a Newarker,—and I should add that they all looked as though they had been read as well as taken home.

Here are some of the books, and what the marks told me: Vol. 1 of the plays of Sophocles, Greek and English text on opposite pages. This was put on the shelves

about January, 1914. Between then and April, 1917, it was taken out twenty times.

Now Sophocles is not a best seller. He was very popular as a playwright in Athens about 2,300 years ago and to-day, in Newark, Mr. Harold Bell Wright is probably more widely approved than he. Yet twenty of our fellow-citizens have, in recent months, avowed an interest in Sophocles. I could give their names and wish I dared to do so. In one of the plays the girl, Antigone, is told that she must die if she does that which love for her dead brother compels her to do,—and she answers, "Then the worst that can befall me is to die an honorable death." Creon, the King, moralizing on the conduct of his people, says, "Of evils current upon earth the worst is money." Words like these from a great tragedy, one of the greatest tragedies, and the whole tragedy itself seem to have still an interest for Newarkers,—though spoken first in a great theatre 450 years before Christ.

I should add that the library has other copies in English of the plays of Sophocles and a look into them all would surely show that more than twenty of our neighbors have returned to the Greek drama in the past few months.

Warner Fite is now a professor in Princeton. While a professor in Indiana University in 1911 he wrote and published a book on "Individualism." This is not a popular topic. The times are making us all look to our legislators for salvation and not to ourselves. Yet this book shows marks of hard reading and has been in the hands of more than twenty borrowers in the six years the library has owned it. Not a remarkable showing, truly, but if you will run your eyes over the several odd thousand books our shelves contain on the subject of human society, you may wonder that twenty selected it when there are so many of far more fetching titles.

One more example will be enough to complete my text. This also goes back to the ancients and is W. W. Fowler's book on "Social Life at Rome in the Age of Cicero." We bought it November, 1912, and it has been in active use thirteen times since then. This book is distinctly "popular" in its field, though not in the sense in which we use that word of the essays of Mr. Bok or Colonel Harvey. It happens to have been written by a man who knows his subject and has learned how to write. It is so true and so clear and so helpful to our understanding of history and of the traits of men that our high school teachers recommend it to their pupils. It has been to three high schools and was probably used by many students at each place. It is agreeably worn. Of books akin to it—that is, of good books on Roman life and history—the library has many, and many use them.

These are near to being library secrets. Surely no one will charge me with wishing to be patronizing toward our city when I thus far disclose them. It is, in fact, minor points like these, familiar enough to us who daily buy and arrange and point inquirers to and lend good books, which keep alive in us the feeling that our labor is not wasted and is not even rightly to be called trivial. Two hundred and fifty-six thousand books are a good many, especially if they are supplemented by thousands of pamphlets, and pictures, and a thousand current journals, and when we make them convenient to the hands of the nearly 400,000 men and women and boys and girls of our city we think the latter use wisely the former and that the former bring pleasure and wisdom to the latter—in fact, we know it.

March 1, 1918.

(Signed) J. C. DANA, Librarian.

STATISTICS FOR 1917

BOOKS LENT, ARRANGED BY AGENCIES.					
	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917
Main Library, adult	286,863	299,650	350,561	322,436	324,575
Main Library, children	56,178	60,137	87,156	81,878	87,418
School Libraries	107,844	71,796	76,350	96,061	93,174
Branch 1.	100,004	78,823	86,058	82,589	72,868
Branch 2.	12,150	19,749	23,347	18,240	4,042
Branch 3.	109,236	118,849	123,157	114,960	107,216
Branch 4.	143,569	170,651	168,488	132,684	143,215
Branch 5.	55,588	68,393	72,945	56,232	64,269
Branch 6.	78,645	104,184	117,142	109,185	121,640
Branch 7.	.....	1,437	26,277	34,993	53,369
Branch 8.	.....	.....	14,863	31,984	31,721
Branch 9.	.....	.....	.....	4,185	32,673
Branch 10.	.....	.....	.....	313	9,973
Barringer High	11,637	11,327	9,068	.....	.....
Deposit Stations	95,631	84,365	.....	.....	.....
Post Office	1,062	199	.....	.....	.....
Firemen's Libraries	7,200	6,350	.....	.....	.....
Police Libraries	2,400	1,650	.....	.....	.....
Periodicals	21,243	16,113	20,327	18,670	19,825
Factory Libraries	3,161	2,182	.....	.....	.....
City Home	1,164	1,095	.....	.....	.....
House of Detention	2,070	2,010	.....	1,793	2,157
Y.W.C.A.	1,138	83	.....	.....	.....
Other Traveling Libraries	1,615	3,186	.....	.....	.....
School Branches	.....	.....	17,976	15,892	.....
Sta. V.&N.	.....	.....	1,102	1,831	1,899
	1,098,398	1,122,229	1,194,817	1,123,926	1,170,034

1916, ACCESSIONS.	
Number of volumes in the library as last reported	245,607
Increase by purchase	16,330
Increase by gift	771
Increase by binding pamphlets	707
Increase by binding periodicals	438
Number of missing volumes restored since last report	133
Number of volumes received since last report	18,379
Number of volumes missing or withdrawn since last report	7,405
Total number of volumes in library	256,581

1917, ACCESSIONS, BY CLASSES.	
General Works	353
Philosophy	160
Religion	246
Sociology	1,097
Philology	132
Natural Science	342
Useful Arts	1,404
Fine Arts	587
Literature	749
History	567
Travel and Description	357
Biography	274
Fiction	392
Duplicates	11,586
Total	18,246

BOOKS LENT, 1917, MAIN LIBRARY, BY CLASSES.

	Adult	Children	Total	Per Cent.
General Works	1,098	1,181	2,279	0.5
Philosophy	7,283	52	7,335	1.7
Religion	3,849	930	4,779	1.1
Sociology	15,538	14,658	30,196	7.0
Philology	3,927	4,779	8,706	2.0
Natural Science	11,745	2,295	14,040	3.2
Useful Arts	21,975	1,950	23,925	5.6
Fine Arts	15,604	3,915	19,519	4.5
Literature	22,353	3,397	25,750	6.0
History	10,507	4,969	15,476	3.6
Travel and Description	5,448	2,813	8,261	1.9
Biography	6,335	2,772	9,107	2.1
Fiction	178,511	43,707	222,218	51.5
Duplicate Collection	20,402	.....	20,402	4.7
Periodicals	19,825	.....	19,825	4.6
	344,400	87,418	431,818	100.0

BOOKS LENT, 1889-1917.

The circulation for the past twenty-eight years is as follows:				
1889-90	330,810	1904	465,674	
1890-91	306,066	1905	511,294	
1891-92	272,347	1906	552,615	
1892-93	268,320	1907	629,891	
1893-94	321,533	1908	851,009	
1894-95	332,078	1909	852,785	
1895-96	337,738	1910	929,665	
1897	364,728	1911	1,054,304	
1898	357,504	1912	1,073,054	
1899	346,985	1913	1,098,398	
1900	331,526	1914	1,122,229	
1901	314,874	1915	1,194,817	
1902	357,266	1916	1,123,926	
1903	428,564	1917	1,170,034	
			17,300,034	

1917, MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS.	
Average daily use (home), main library only	
Largest daily use (main library only)	1,078
Smallest daily use (main library only)	290
Volumes lost and paid for	933
Volumes worn out and withdrawn	2
Number of reserve postals issued	185
Registration Department—	3,327
Volumes collected by messenger	39
Names registered during the year	931
Total live registration	13,416
Contagious diseases reported by Board of Health	7,672
Cards withheld on this account	24,074
Pamphlets and clippings lent	11,106
Poems lent	150
Books lent to N. J. libraries	4,000
Requests for special information:	12,355
At Main Library	674
At branches	30,595
Art Department:	21,369
Books lent	5,061
Pictures lent	100,906
Lithographs lent	3,238
Number of schools which regularly use pictures	46
Special exhibits sent to other cities	29
Branches:	
New borrowers registered at branches	11,160
Books lent at branches	640,407
Foreign Branch:	
Books lent, total	143,215
German	1,503
Hebrew	343
Hungarian	1,088
Italian	409
Polish	2,972
Russian	1,438
Ruthenian	1,238
Yiddish	3,885
Total	12,876
School Department:	
Books sent to schools in class-room libraries	11,209
Museum Association:	
Attendance	75,296
Objects lent	4,008

STATISTICS FOR 1917

Report of J. H. Bacheller, Treasurer, for the year 1917.

	To balance as per 1916 report	\$1.32	To miscellaneous receipts:	
	To city appropriation 1917, less amount deducted for interest and sinking fund charges on account Library Building bonds \$129,807.03		Check No. 2564 deposited by payee but not returned.....	4.00
	To special appropriation.	6,000.00	Jan. 12 To worn lamps sold	7.73
	To fines, duplicate collection, etc.	12,948.21	Mar. 19 To H. W. Wilson Co., advertising	50.00
	To interest on deposits..	186.66	May 16 To Newark Contemporary, printing	12.10
	To Newark Museum Asso- Services	\$5,292.09	31 To Liability Insurance, Wales	100.00
	Light, heat, etc. 1,000.00		To White Refrigerator Co., refund	1.00
	Printing, telephone, etc... 336.22		July 25 To Vacant Lot Committee, printing	2.50
		6,628.31	Aug. 21 To Asso. Adver. Clubs, refund.	282.33
	To Newark Board of Education, cartage	\$796.01 404.80	Oct. 8 Worn lamps sold	6.06
		1,200.81	Nov. 1 To salary refund, Schurr.	8.48
	To L. Bamberger Co., sta. library	\$9.00 9.00 <u>18.00</u>	5 To Salary refund, Gardner	3.30
		36.00	12 To East Orange Library, printing ...	9.25
	To L. S. Plaut Co., sta. library	\$9.00 9.00 <u>18.00</u>	Dec. 13 To Young request, interest.	20.20
	Lost books....	14.62	14 To Nation's Business, articles..	50.00
		50.62	31 To Amer. Liby. Assn., refund express	62.64
	To Soldiers' books, stock sold	\$51.67 54.30 <u>15.98</u>		619.59 157,846.66
		121.95		\$157,848.00
	To Latin Exhibit payments:		Fines, etc., noted above were received by months as follows:	
	Cambridge, Mass.	\$10.00	December, 1916.....	\$1,152.57
	Dayton, O....	10.00	January, 1917.....	1,244.86
	Bloomsburg, Pa.	10.00	February, 1917.....	1,032.34
	Princeton, N. J.....	10.00	March, 1917.....	1,127.46
	Brooklyn, N. Y.....	10.00	April, 1917.....	961.34
	Fitchburg, Mass.	10.00	May, 1917.....	989.50
	Akron, O....	10.00	June, 1917.....	1,005.55
	Kansas Normal	10.00	July, 1917.....	860.91
	Dartmouth College	10.00	August, 1917.....	765.60
	Univ. of Michigan ..	10.00	September, 1917.....	811.88
	Germantown, Pa.	10.00	October, 1917.....	907.34
	Hanford, Cal..	5.00	November, 1917.....	1,010.85
	Portland, Ore.	5.00	December, 1917.....	1,078.01
		120.00		<u>\$12,948.21</u>
	To 56 Business Books:		Fines, etc., noted above were received by source and class (13 months) as follows:	
	Sioux City, Ia.	\$7.50	Fines	
	Trenton, N. J.	10.00	Main Library.....	\$4,287.19
	Rochester, N. Y.....	10.00	Business Branch	824.93
	New Bedford, Mass.	10.00	Clark Branch	19.85
	Jackson, Mich.	10.00	Roseville Branch	678.79
	Davenport, Ia.	10.00	Springfield Branch	458.23
	Detroit, Mich.	10.00	Ferry Branch	272.85
	St. Louis, Mo.	10.00	Clinnton Branch	549.15
	Des Moines, Ia.	10.00	West Side Branch	99.04
	Queensboro, N. Y.....	10.00	Lafayette Branch	33.29
		97.50	Cleveland Branch	45.72
	To War Poster Exhibit:		Vailsburgh Branch	10.09
	Pratt Institute	10.00		<u>\$7,279.13</u>
	New Jersey State Mus....	10.00	Duplicate Collection	
	Syracuse Li-brary	10.00	Main Library	\$1,374.10
		30.00	Business Branch	1,028.34
			Clark Branch	8.47
			Roseville Branch	908.19
			Springfield Branch	133.90
			Ferry Branch	125.94
			Clinnton Branch	600.75
			West Side Branch	1.05
			Lafayette Branch	6.37
			Cleveland Branch	3.42
			Vailsburgh Branch	.76
				<u>\$4,191.29</u>

STATISTICS FOR 1917

Non-resident and temp. borrowers.	\$300.49
New cards	1.00
Reserves	60.54
Lost books	444.08
Damaged books	337.99
Telephones	33.85
100-novel lists	2.25
1000-novel lists	2.00
Y. P. D. lists	5.40
Reading for pleasure	6.92
War Poster pamphlet	2.30
Roseville Branch pamphlet	6.00
Star Spangled Banner pamphlet ..	.60
1600 Business Books	9.00
Stock sold	138.66
Miscellaneous	126.71
	<u>\$1,477.79</u>

By expenditures upon vouchers audited in regular form by a majority of the Board of Trustees and ordered paid by the Board on the following accounts:

Books	\$16,622.84
Art books, pictures, etc	691.72
Binding	7,942.75
Periodicals, main library	2,165.00
Periodicals, branches	995.65
Postage, general	666.44
Postage, lending department ..	290.00
Postage, branches	170.00
Trolley fares	282.10
Temporary resident refunds ..	126.99
Catalog department incidentals	391.83
Express and cartage	415.95
School deliveries	934.11
Telephones, main library	481.14
Janitor's supplies	1,053.13
Cleaning windows	303.00
Water and ice	284.25
Building rep. and alterations	1,245.30
Furniture, equipment and rep.	3,023.18
Insurance	1,134.29
Coal	5,985.90
Water, boiler	268.04
Oil, waste, etc.	191.35
Engineer's sundries	413.24
Lamps	460.13
Repairs, engines and dynamos	42.84
Repairs, elevators and booklifts	106.16
Gas	417.70
Printing	860.45
Printing lists	294.13
Stationery	1,663.32
Incidentals from petty cash ..	677.69
Miscellany	2,260.79
Dues and memberships	122.75
Cash advance to librarian ..	350.00
Branch deliveries	1,382.53
	<u>\$53,334.16</u>

Business Branch, rent	\$3,900.00
light, etc.	338.95
incidentals	429.50
	<u>4,668.45</u>
Clark Branch, incidentals	1.75
Roseville Branch, rent	\$1,051.00
light, etc.	285.88
incidentals	306.04
	<u>1,642.92</u>
Springfield Branch, rent	1,380.00
light, etc.	319.19
incidentals	205.45
	<u>1,904.64</u>

Ferry Branch, rent ..	960.00
light, etc.	201.48
incidentals	114.86
	<u>1,276.34</u>
Clinton Branch, rent	1,200.00
light, etc.	208.66
incidentals	133.64
	<u>1,542.30</u>
West Side Branch, incidentals ..	39.70
Lafayette Branch, incidentals ..	2.75
Cleveland Branch, incidentals ..	3.00
Vailsburgh Branch, incidentals ..	8.53
	<u>\$12,472.91</u>

Salaries—	
Librarian's office	\$8,199.90
Asst. librarian's office	4,320.10
General office	5,594.95
Catalog dept.	4,774.57
Technical dept.	4,423.11
Lending dept.	10,184.23
Fiction dept.	2,613.32
Registration dept. ..	2,548.99
Art dept.	3,420.08
Museum dept.	5,033.79
Children's dept.	2,143.32
School dept.	2,201.77
Bindery and repair ..	2,109.90
Telephone dept.	768.47
Sundays and holidays	344.18
	<u>58,680.68</u>

Branches	2,461.08
Business Branch	3,567.09
Clark Branch	107.00
Roseville Branch ..	1,981.13
Springfield Branch...	3,364.39
Ferry Branch	1,537.97
Clinton Branch	1,857.91
West Side Branch ..	789.16
Lafayette Branch	531.35
Cleveland Branch ..	476.19
Vailsburgh Branch ..	148.50
	<u>16,821.77</u>

Janitors' department	8,864.46
Engineers' department	6,433.01
Elevator	1,080.59
	<u>91,880.51</u>

Balance December 31, 1917.....	160.42
	<u>\$157,848.00</u>

YOUNG BEQUEST ACCOUNT.

Jan. 1, 1917—	
To balance in Howard Savings..	\$500.00
Dec. 1, 1917—	
To interest	20.20
Dec. 13, 1917—	
By int. drawn and transferred	20.20
Dec. 31, 1917—	
By balance	500.00
	<u>\$520.20</u>
	<u>\$520.20</u>

INCIDENTAL CASH IN LIBRARIAN'S HANDS.

Feb. 28. Special advance	\$350.00
Cash advanced to various departments and branches on previous incidental bills, for desk change....	68.00
	<u>\$418.00</u>
Total cash	<u>\$418.00</u>